

REMARKS

In the January 8, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-34 and rejected claims 35-37. Applicant has canceled claims 35-37, without conceding the associated rejections and without prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications containing the claimed subject matter. After entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-34 (4 independent claims; 34 total claims) remain pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In an effort to expedite allowance of this case, Applicant has cancelled claims 35-37, without prejudice or disclaimer. In the January 8, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-34 are allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Office wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail or deem that further amendments should be made to improve the form of the claims, then the Office is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Office's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: David O. Caplan
David O. Caplan
Reg. No. 41,655

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202
(602) 382-6284
(602) 382-6070 - Facsimile
dcaplan@swlaw.com

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